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Application No. 09/867,749
Docket No. 111325-64**REMARKS**

~~The above amendment with the following remarks is submitted to be fully~~ responsive to the Office Action of February 11, 2004. Reconsideration of this application in light of the amendment and the allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-22 were pending in the present application prior to the above amendment. In response to the Office Action, claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 13, 15-17, and 19 were amended. Therefore, claims 1-22 are still pending in the present application and are believed to be in proper condition for allowance.

Initially, the Applicants acknowledge with appreciation, the personal interview conducted with Examiner on May 5, 2004 with the Applicant and the Applicant's representative. During the interview, the merits of the invention were discussed in detail in view of the Office Action. In particular, the present invention and how it differs from the invention set forth in U.S. Patent No. 5,639,443 to Stefik et al. was discussed. The Examiner acknowledged the distinction between the present invention and invention described in Stefik et al. but expressed concerns regarding the claim language. Thus, possible amendments to the claims that more clearly define the present invention were proposed and discussed, such amendments being submitted herewith. Therefore, reconsideration of the present application in view of the above amendments is respectfully requested.

Referring now to the Office Action, claims 7-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 as being directed to a nonstatutory subject matter, the Examiner asserting that claims 7-12 only recite an abstract idea, and that claims 13-22 are non-functional, descriptive material. Although the Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner's position, independent claims 7, 13, and 16 have been amended to address the Examiner's concerns such that the claims more clearly meet the statutory requirements, and so that the invention is more clearly defined to be within the technological arts, and produces a useful, concrete, and tangible result. Therefore, the

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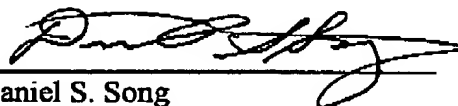
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withdrawal of this rejection with respect to the independent claims 7, 13, and 16, and dependent claims 8-12, 14, 15, 17-22 dependent thereon, are respectfully requested.

Referring again to the Office Action, claims 1-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,639,443 to Stefik et al. The Examiner asserts that Stefik et al. teaches a rights management system, a method of managing rights, a digital rights management language, and an information storage media as claimed in the rejected claims. However, consistent with the discussions during the interview, the independent claims 1, 7, 13, and 16 have been amended to specifically recite that the consequential right is linked to another right and are exercisable only upon expiration or exercise of the another right, thereby providing sequential access to content. Therefore, this rejection of claims 1-22 is believed to be rendered moot in view of the above-noted amendments, the remaining claims being ultimately dependent on one of the amended independent claims. Correspondingly, the withdrawal of this rejection and the allowance of these claims are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested. However, if the Examiner deems that any issue remains after considering this response, she is invited to call the undersigned to expedite the prosecution and work out any such issue by telephone.

Respectfully submitted,


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